

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 9 is amended herein to remove reference numbers 92b and 92c. FIG. 9 is further amended herein to change the reference number associated with the “HYBRID CIRCUIT” from “98” to “96.” Appendix A contains a formal drawing replacement sheet for FIG. 9, which reflects these amendments.

FIG. 12 is amended herein to “INITIALIZE MEMORY 18” should be “INITIALIZE MEMORY 918.” Appendix A contains a formal drawing replacement sheet for FIG. 12, which reflects this amendment.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 10, and 16-19 are independent in form. Claims 1-19 are rejected. Claims 1, 10, 11, and 16-19 are amended herein. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the disclosure, because of informalities. More particularly, the Examiner noted that on page 18, line 15 “hybrid circuit 96” does not match with the reference 98 labeled “HYBRID CIRCUIT” in FIG. 9. The Examiner further noted that on page 22, lines 22-23, after step S1316, it should proceed to step S1320 if it results in “Yes” in step S1316.

The Specification is amended herein to change the recitation “hybrid circuit 96” on page 18, line 15 to “hybrid circuit 98.” The Specification is further amended herein to change the recitation “S1316” on page 22, line 23 to “S1320.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the Specification.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to FIG. 9 as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because it includes the reference characters 92b and 92c, which are not mentioned in the description. FIG. 9 is amended herein to remove the reference characters 92b and 92c.

The Examiner further objected to FIG. 9 as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4) because the reference character 98 has been used to designate both a “HYBRID CIRCUIT” and a “MODULATION/DEMODULATION UNIT.” FIG. 9 is further amended herein to change the reference character associated with the “HYBRID CIRCUIT” from “98” to “96.”

The Examiner also objected to FIG. 12, because S1202 “INITIALIZE MEMORY 18” should be “INITIALIZE MEMORY 918.” FIG. 12 is amended herein to “INITIALIZE MEMORY 18” should be “INITIALIZE MEMORY 918.”

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 8, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Miller, Jr. et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,356,356 (“Miller”). Applicants respectfully disagree with the characterization of the claims and prior art in the stated rejection and respectfully traverse this rejection.

Regarding independent claims 1, 16, and 18, the Examiner asserts that Miller discloses, in FIG. 1 and col. 5, lines 38-41, a “reception means for receiving data” [May 19, 2005 Office Action, page 4]. However, in FIG. 1 and in the cited section, Miller is silent regarding a communication apparatus with a reception means for receiving data, which includes color information.

According to Section 2181 of the MPEP, a claim with a means plus function element “shall be construed to cover the corresponding structure, material, or acts described in

the specification and equivalents thereof.” Regarding the claimed receiving means, Applicants disclose, *inter alia*:

FIG. 6 is a flowchart of a received document distribution process executed by the communication terminal equipment in FIG. 1.

First, it receives an image file from the other facsimile via the public network in compliance with the ITU T. 30 recommendation (step S601). The image file is comprised of pages of monochrome images or pages of color images. The monochrome images are encoded in one of the formats of MH, MR, MMR and JBIG, and the color images are encoded in the JPEG format and received. This communication terminal equipment retains the encoded data of each page in the RAM 3 together with color information of monochrome/color and page information such as the information on an encoding system.

Specification at page 11, lines 8-22.

Thus, the claimed “receiving means” is capable of receiving data that includes color information. However, in an effort to expedite the allowance of this case, the independent claims are amended herein to explicitly require a reception means or step “for receiving data, which includes color image information.”

The Examiner further asserts that Miller discloses, in FIG. 2 and col. 4, lines 56-65, a “conversion means for converting the received data into electronic mail” [May 19, 2005 Office Action, page 5]. However, miller fails to teach or suggest converting data, which includes color image information, into electronic mail.

Regarding the claimed conversion means, Applicants disclose, *inter alia*:

FIG. 7 is a flowchart of the conversion process for images of all pages in a step S606 in FIG. 6.

First, it determines whether or not there is a color page from image information on each page of the received document (step S701), and if there is even one color page, it acquires the color conversion format information of the destination clients based on the

destination information table (FIG. 3) (step S702), and it determines whether or not a division setting of the color conversion format acquired in the step S702 is "Divided" based on the color conversion format table (FIG. 4) (step S703).

Specification at page 13, line 26 – page 14, line 10.

Since Miller is silent regarding receiving data, which contains color information, Miller fails to teach or suggest the claimed conversion means for converting the received data into electronic mail.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as claimed is neither taught nor suggested by, and therefore is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of, Miller. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 8, 16 and 18.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-5, 10, 12-15, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miller in view of Shimoosawa, U.S. Patent No. 6,658,456 ("Shimoosawa"). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miller in view of Shimoosawa, further in view of Blossman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,721,783 ("Blossman"). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miller in view of Shimoosawa, further in view of Saito et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,266,160 ("Saito"). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miller in view of Fujii et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,883,016 ("Fujii"). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miller in view of Shimoosawa, further in view of Fujii. Applicants respectfully disagree with the characterization of the claims and prior art in the stated rejection and respectfully traverses these rejections.

Regarding independent claims 10, 17, and 19, the Examiner asserts that Miller discloses, in FIG. 1 and col. 5, lines 38-41, a “reception means for receiving data” [May 19, 2005 Office Action, page 7]. However, as discussed *supra*, Applicants respectfully assert that Miller fails to teach or suggest the claimed reception means.

The Examiner further asserts that Shimoosawa discloses, in FIG. 4 and col. 5, lines 13-29, a “management means for managing a forwarding destination and setting on forwarding of received data for each mail address of the data received by said reception means” [May 19, 2005 Office Action, page 8]. However, Shimoosawa fails to teach or suggest a management means for managing data, which includes color information.

Regarding the claimed management means, Applicants disclose, *inter alia*:

In FIG. 3, the information to be stored includes client and user abbreviations for the sake of identifying distribution registrants, electronic mail addresses of the destinations, image attachment information on whether or not to attach received images to the electronic mail, document page information on whether to attach all pages or only a top page in the case of attaching the images, color conversion format information for specifying a document conversion format when attaching a color document and monochrome conversion format information for specifying the document conversion format when attaching a monochrome document.

Specification at page 9, lines 12-25.

Shimoosawa fails to teach or suggest a management means that stores, *inter alia*, color conversion format information for specifying a document conversion format when attaching a color document. That is, since Shimoosawa is silent regarding receiving data, which contains color information, Shimoosawa fails to teach or suggest the claimed management means for managing a forwarding destination and setting on forwarding of received data for each mail address of the data received by said receiving means.

Applicants respectfully submits that the present invention as claimed is neither taught nor suggested by, and therefore is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of, Miller, Shimoosawa, Blossman, Saito, or Fujii, alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 19.

Dependent Claims

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of the dependent claims. Applicants submit that, in view of the amendments to the claims presented herein and, for at least similar reasons as to why the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend are believed allowable as discussed supra, the dependent claims are also allowable. Applicants however, reserve the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary or appropriate.

CONCLUSION

For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 1232-4792.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 1232-4792.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: _____


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Appendix A

Formal Drawing Replacement Sheet for FIGS. 9 and 12.